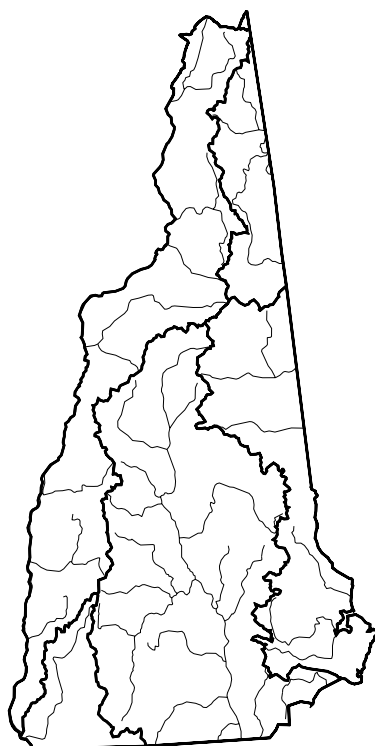


New Hampshire



— Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the New Hampshire 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

In 1994, New Hampshire issued a statewide freshwater fish consumption advisory due to mercury levels found in fish tissue, the primary source of which is believed to be atmospheric deposition from upwind states. When this advisory is included in the assessment, all fresh surface waters are, by definition, less than fully supporting all uses. If this advisory is not included in the assessment, however, over 84% of assessed river miles and 97% of assessed lake acres fully support all uses.

All of the state's estuarine waters fully support swimming, and nearly 99% support aquatic life

uses. None of the estuaries, however, fully support fish and shellfish consumption. Approximately 60% of the shellfish beds are closed due to bacteria, and 84% of the estuaries are defined as impaired because of a consumption advisory due to PCBs in lobster tomalley. All tidal waters are considered impaired for fish consumption due to a consumption advisory for PCBs in bluefish.

Excluding the statewide freshwater fish advisory for mercury, metals, PCBs, and bacteria are the leading causes of impairment in rivers. Low pH, exotic weeds, and nutrients are the major causes of impairment in lakes. Nonpoint sources are believed to be responsible for most of the pollution entering New Hampshire's waters.

New Hampshire did not report on the condition of wetlands.

Ground Water Quality

New Hampshire is highly dependent on ground water for drinking water. Natural ground water quality from stratified aquifers is generally good; however, aesthetic concerns such as taste and odor exist. Bedrock well water quality is also generally good, although this water can be impacted by naturally occurring contaminants including fluoride, arsenic, mineral radioactivity, and radon gas.

In addition to naturally occurring contaminants, there are many areas of localized contamination due primarily to releases of petroleum and volatile organic compounds from petroleum facilities, commercial and industrial operations, and landfills. Sodium from widespread winter application of road salt is also a contaminant of concern.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

New Hampshire has numerous laws, regulations, and programs to abate pollution from point and non-point sources. Over the past 25 years, all significant discharges of untreated municipal and industrial wastewater have been eliminated. To resolve remaining nonpoint source problems, the Department of Environmental Services (DES) initiated a watershed protection approach in 1995, which is in the process of being refined.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

DES has several lake assessment programs including an excellent volunteer monitoring program. DES implemented a 3-year rotating watershed monitoring program for rivers in 1989, and started a volunteer river monitoring program in 1997. To determine the ecological health of surface waters, DES initiated a biomonitoring program in 1995. In the future, DES hopes to develop and implement a probability-based monitoring strategy to provide more comprehensive assessments.

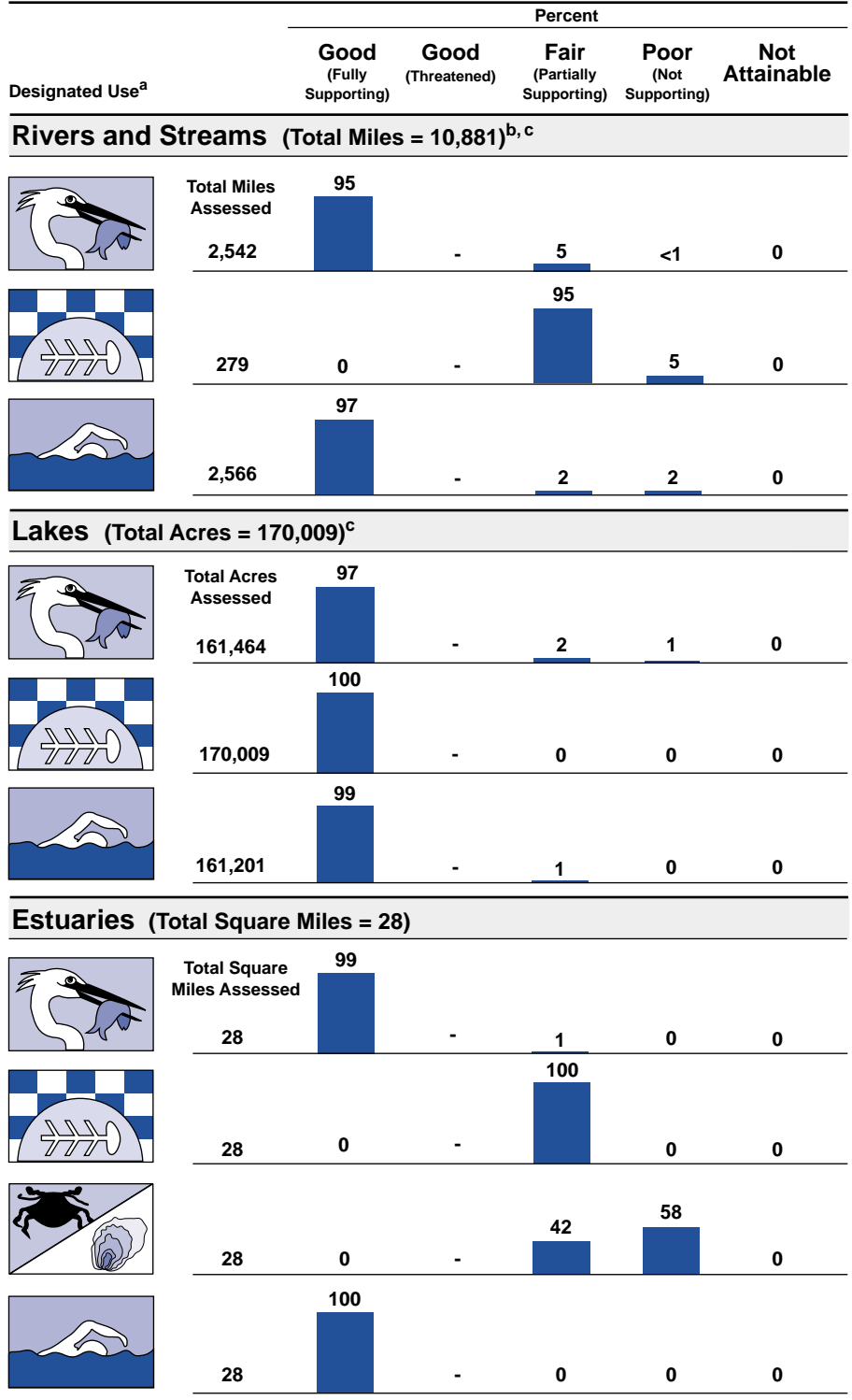
– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

^a A subset of New Hampshire's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

^b Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

^c Excluding the statewide freshwater fish consumption advisory due to mercury.

Individual Use Support in New Hampshire



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.